



FIRE DEPARTMENT SANTA CLARA COUNTY



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June 26, 2019

The Honorable Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1366 (Gonzalez) As Amended May 20, 2019 – OPPOSE

Dear Chairperson Hueso:

On behalf of the Santa Clara County Fire Department and in support of the County of Santa Clara, I write to express the Santa Clara County Fire Department's opposition to AB 1366 (Gonzalez). This bill would continue to block protections for customers of Voice over Internet Protocols (VoIP) and Internet Protocol (IP)-enabled services for the next ten years.

Over the last several years, we have seen the devastating impacts to communities across California when public safety loses the ability to alert and warn their residents during a wildfire. Regulation is necessary to ensure VoIP providers construct systems that remain operational during disasters and power outages and preserve public safety's ability to alert and warn our residents. Being in the heart of Silicon Valley, a growing number of our residents, businesses, and government agencies rely on broadband technology for essential communication services and ensuring that these systems remain operational during a disaster must continue to be a priority.

System reliability, the ability to access 9-1-1, and the ability for public safety to alert and warn residents in an emergency is critical for all of California. State oversight and regulation of VoIP and IP-enabled services will help achieve these outcomes and protect our residents. I stand in support of the County of Santa Clara in opposing AB 1366, and I respectfully request your No vote.

Sincerely,

Tony Bowden, Fire Chief
Santa Clara County Fire Department

Organized as the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District

*Serving Santa Clara County and the communities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos,
Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga*
